

# IOWA BIRD LIFE



Vol. XXXIII No. 4      December 1963

Published by the  
IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

## FALL GET-TOGETHER, 1963

DR. MYRLE M. BURK, SEC'Y.-TREAS.

R.R. #2  
WATERLOO, IOWA

Contrary to numerous long range forecasts of rain and storms, Saturday and Sunday, September 21 and 22, 1963, were sunny and warm, ideally suited for birders. Members and friends, even from the far corners of Iowa, and Minnesota and Nebraska, met Saturday evening at the Grout Historical Museum, Waterloo, Iowa, for registration, a cup of coffee and delicious cookies and visiting. Visiting, an opportunity for members to get acquainted, was the purpose of the first fall meeting, called by Fred Pierce at his home in Winthrop.

The "conversation piece" for this hour was the fine displays of historical objects, portraying the early history of Black Hawk County. Mr. Henry Grout, the founder, who as a young man was a farmer northeast of Waterloo, early became interested in Indian artifacts and in preserving the tools of the early settlers of this region.

On his farm was a huge granite boulder from which were quarried the blocks to build a Presbyterian Church in Waterloo. Enough remained to build a parsonage. A few years ago the church was razed to give way to a parking lot. Regrettably, we seem to have so little pride and concern in our native heritage of native flowers, clean sparkling streams, the "woods" and even the boulders carried here by the glaciers; even they are disappearing, blasted to bits and buried in deep holes.

At eight o'clock, Jack McLane, a nature photographer, from Burlington, Iowa, showed us a beautiful series of bird and animal pictures. The birds were photographed in characteristic attitudes in their natural environment. Both amateurs and more experienced birders enjoyed these pictures.

Four bird trips were planned for Sunday morning: (1) The Crane Creek from north of Dewar to the Hickory Nut Grove, led by John and Lois Osness; (2) the Wapsipicon River from Siggelkov Access (a Black Hawk County Park) to Sweet Marsh, led by Margaret Nagel and Ruth Halliday; (3) the Black Hawk County Access areas east of Dunkerton, designated as No. 8, No. 10, and No. 11, led by Arthur Hughes and Russell Hays. These areas are primarily for hunting and fishing and are quite primitive; seventy species of birds were seen here. (4) George Wyth Park on the Cedar River where Dean Roosa netted and banded.

The trips began at 6 A.M., starting from the Dewar Hall, where the members had been fortified against the early morning chill by a sumptuous breakfast of pancakes, scrambled eggs and bacon, served by Dwight Dirksen. Fair weather with warm sunshine soon replaced the early mists of the morning. A very good count of 102 species was made. Unusual birds seen were the Osprey, the Pigeon Hawk (PCP), and the Pileated Woodpecker.

The following birds were seen, compilation led by Myrle L. Jones:

Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveler, Wood Duck, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Osprey, Pigeon Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, American Coot, Killdeer, Common Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sand-

piper, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Long-eared Owl, Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Palm Warbler, Ovenbird, Connecticut Warbler, Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Purple Finch, Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Vesper Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, White-throated Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

Saturday, September 21 (only).

Green Heron, Bobwhite, Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

A Red-shafted Flicker (or a hybrid) was reported by Nick Osness and David Foulk at No. 8, the Childs-Duffy Area. Nick is a very careful student of birds and had seen the Red-shafted Flicker in the Rocky Mountains during the summer of 1962. He did not report it at the time of the compilation because he anticipated that it would not be accepted.

Sincere appreciation is extended:

(1) To those members of the Waterloo Audubon Society whose hearty cooperation made this meeting a success.

(2) To Genevieve Woodbridge for the use of the Grout Museum for our evening meeting.

(3) To the Field Trip leaders, who also arranged the morning snack, Arthur Hughes, Margaret Nagel and John and Lois Osness.

(4) To the hostesses Saturday evening at Grout Museum, Dorothy Drackley and Stella Hawkins and their assistants, and to all those who gave cookies.

(5) To the hostesses at Dewar Hall, Helen Hawkins, Pearl Rader, Antoinette Camarata, Mayme Sussman, and others who by their efforts made the hall more attractive for the meeting.

(6) To those who took charge of registration, ticket sales, Pearl Lyon, Hulda Flynn, Wanda Daum and Pauline Bassarear.

(7) To Maybelle Hinckley, who sold car stickers, brassards, field check lists, and memberships.

(8) To Dwight Dirksen who catered the bountiful and delicious breakfast and dinner.

(9) To Myrle L. Jones who led the compilation of the birds observed, very ably taking the place usually assigned to Dr. Martin L. Grant, who is now in Iran.



## ATTENDANCE

- BELLEVUE: Myrle L. and Margaret Jones.  
 BURLINGTON: Mrs. E. E. Barker, Jim Barker, Ann Fuller, Jane Fuller, Frieda M. Haffner, Mr. and Mrs. Frederic Leopold, Peter Lowther, Jack McLane, Audrey Niemann.  
 CEDAR FALLS: Mrs. John Bergstrom, Madelaine D. Carpenter, Eleanor Eifert, Annette Haffner, Thomas Moon, Mrs. Charles Schwanke, Maxine Schwanke, Mrs. Florence J. Spring.  
 CEDAR RAPIDS: Lillian Serbousek, Myra G. Willis.  
 DAVENPORT: Mr. and Mrs. Peter C. Petersen, Jr.  
 FARRAGUT: Mr. and Mrs. Sam McAllister.  
 GOLDFIELD: Dean Roosa.  
 HAMBURG: Mr. and Mrs. Fitzhugh Diggs.  
 INDEPENDENCE: Florence Kane.  
 JESUP: Mrs. Lloyd Hewitt.  
 MARION: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Liljedahl.  
 MARSHALLTOWN: Mr. and Mrs. Homer Rinehart.  
 MOUNT VERNON: Dr. J. Harold Ennis.  
 OELWEIN: Mr. and Mrs. Earl Alton.  
 SHELL ROCK: Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Pettijohn.  
 SIOUX CITY: Mrs. Helen Barrett, R. E. DeLoss, Mr. and Mrs. Garland H. Roose.  
 WATERLOO: Pauline Bassarear, Hattie Buettner, Myrle M. Burk, Antoinette Camarata, Wanda L. Daum, Mr. and Mrs. Norval Flynn, David Foulk, Ruth Halliday, Lorraine Hallowell, Helen Hawkins, Stella Hawkins, Russell M. Hays, Maybelle Hinckley, Arthur Hughes, Pearl C. Lyon, Margaret Nagel, Mr. and Mrs. John Osness, Nick, Randi, and April Osness, Pearl Rader, Mrs. Robert Sherburne.  
 WAVERLY: Arlo Raim.  
 WHEATLAND: C. Esther Copp.  
 WINTHROP: Fred Pierce.  
 LE MOILLE, MINN.: Pauline Wershofen.  
 LINCOLN, NEBRASKA: Mr. and Mrs. Harold V. Whitmus.

## THE PINE WARBLER AS A MIGRANT IN THE SIOUX CITY AREA

WILLIAM YOUNG WORTH

3119 Second Street  
SIOUX CITY, IOWA

When the late Walter W. Bennett wrote in 1931 that the Pine Warbler was an uncommon migrant at Sioux City he was indeed right and it was nearly fifteen years until this observer saw his first Pine Warbler in the Sioux City area. Since the Bennett list of Birds of Sioux City, Iowa embraced an area roughly sixty miles out from Sioux City, this writer has done likewise and included two birds records not in Iowa.

The first mention of the Pine Warbler in this general area is a specimen taken in April, 1865, by Professor Samuel Aughey of the University of Nebraska. This record is from Dakota County, Nebraska. Professor Aughey's work in Dakota County, Nebraska, has never been given enough credit, but

the fact that ninety species of birds credited to the county and mostly backed by specimens is not to be taken lightly. His findings are actually the basis for much of the bird study in this area.

On May 20, 1945, the writer saw his first Pine Warbler in this region. One bird was observed on the Union County, South Dakota, side of the Big Sioux River a few miles above Sioux City. The next record was from Nebraska. The date was May 17, 1950, and again just one bird was seen. This one was feeding along the shore of old Blyburg Lake southeast of Homer, Dakota County.

All the following records of the Pine Warbler are strictly the product of intense field work in our own yard. By intense I mean glassing every bird that appears in the yard unless it has been seen well enough to identify and not require the use of binoculars. Hours on end can be spent thus during migration seasons and some startling bird records can be made without moving from the home property.

On the morning of August 30, 1957, I noticed two birds feeding in our arbor vita trees and on approaching to within eight or ten feet I decided I was looking at Pine Warblers. These birds left shortly thereafter, but returned about 3 P.M. and this time as they fed I worked my way up to within four feet of the two. These birds not only picked food from the trees, but would fly out to ends of twigs and pluck insects therefrom. About 4 P.M. the Pine Warblers ceased feeding and flew to the rear of the house where they bathed in the birdbath and also soaked themselves under the lawn sprinkler, which was running at the time.

My next encounter with Pine Warblers was on September 5, 1958. On this day I again found two birds in the yard and watched them for a good part of the day. On September 17, 1958, a lone Pine Warbler was seen near the birdbath and was watched as it took a bath. It was to be five long years before I was again enthralled with the presence of this gentle little bird. On September 13, 1963, two Pine Warblers fed and bathed during the course of the day, but were gone the next day. However, on September 15 a lone Pine Warbler was seen on the premises most of the day but was not seen again.

I think the most outstanding thing about my observations of Pine Warblers was their tameness. They seemed almost confiding and even the presence of a cat during several of the observations did not seem to disturb them.

It is quite evident that the Pine Warbler was never a common migrant in western Iowa and is not today. The normal main migration flights are up the Mississippi Valley and it is probably just by chance that the bird student is privileged to occasionally see this warbler in the upper Missouri River Valley.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bennett, Walter W., 1931. **Birds of Sioux City, Iowa.** Sioux City Bird Club, 18 pp.

DuMont, Philip A., 1934. **A Revised List of the Birds of Iowa.** University of Iowa Studies in Natural History, Iowa City. p. 126.

Stephens, Thomas C., Wm. G. Youngworth, Wm. R. Felton, Jr., 1955. **The Birds of Union County, South Dakota.** Occasional Papers No. 1. Nebraska Ornith. Union, Crete, Nebraska, 35 pp.

Stephens, Thomas C., 1957. **The Birds of Dakota County, Nebraska.** Occasional Papers No. 3. Nebraska Ornith. Union, Crete, Nebraska, 28 pp.

## FIELD REPORTS

August was rather cool and wet, September had normal temperatures and was slightly wetter than normal, and October was extremely warm. The monthly average temperature in Des Moines was the warmest in 86 years of records. While the fall migration is probably affected more by weather and food supplies further north than by local conditions there were some unusually early arrivals and, conversely, some late arrivals, or individuals remaining here longer than usual.

As is so often the case, reports of dates and abundance vary from section to section, and also as to species. The general impression is that the warbler waves were not of proportions usually seen, but there were more minor waves, or the birds trickled through.

**Loons, Grebes, Pelicans.** A Common Loon on Lake Hendricks, near Riceville, was seen on the early date 28 July. (DK). A Horned Grebe on the Des Moines Reservoir on 6 November was largely in breeding plumage. A Western Grebe was seen on 3 November at Keokuk. (HP). Fifteen Pied-billed Grebes were on Little Wall Lake 26 October. (DP). A Brown Pelican was reported by Mrs. Geo. Wright as having been at Twin Lakes, Rockwell City, from 14 September to the 28th. White Pelicans in four flocks totalling about 250 were seen 7 September, 250 on the 20th, and 150 on 26 October. (EG). At Union Slough there were 50 on 26 October, (JW), and at Sioux City, 150 and 250 on 15 and 29 September. (DH).

**Hérons.** Eighteen Great Blue Herons were seen 26 September, (DH), and a flock of seven was migrating near Ames 21 September. (DP). An adult Little Blue Heron was observed in August. (JW). There were 30 egrets four miles below Bellevue late in October (MJ). Common Egrets numbering 22 were unusual, and one remained as late as 6 November. Immature Yellow-crowned Night Herons were unusually numerous while one adult was seen in August. (JW).

**Geese.** Geese were, in the main, thought to be numerous. At Little Wall Lake on 26 October there were 29 Canadas. (DP). Several large flocks went over Des Moines on 28 September, with a number of other reports around that date. There were 100 at Pleasantville also on the same day. (GB). Large flocks were reported throughout October, (Dick K). A few arrived 28 September and peaked at 60 on 26 October. (JW). A flock of 40 White-fronted Geese during the week of 6 October was unusual for Union Slough. A goose shot near Sioux City was identified by a Nebraska Conservation Officer as a Brant. (DH). There were more Snow Geese than usual with some unprecedented landings on farm ponds. (GB). Coralville Refuge had 27 Blue and Snow Geese on 26 October, with reports of flocks passing over for a long period, (FK). At Big Marsh, near Parkersburg, there were 800 evenly divided between Blue and Snow on 20 October and other flocks were seen at Davenport between 3 October and 21. (PP). Early flights of Blue and Snow were seen at Hamburg 28 August and 30, with none until 6 October but the migration continues. They were abundant in mid-October at Lamoni with several flocks every day. (DG). Migration at Sioux City started early in September but flocks were considered smaller than usual. A flock of 5,000 geese and ducks, mostly geese, was observed late on 10 November and identification was uncertain. (DH).

**Ducks.** Newspaper stories told of large numbers of ducks on northern lakes and in the eastern part of the state, but from Iowa City, "Population very thin, no large numbers or varieties with most ponds and marshes dried



up. Even duck hunters scarce after opening day." (FK). "Hunters say duck population up slightly." (DH). At Little Wall Lake on 26 October there were eight species of ducks, but 50 Mallards was by far the largest number of any species. (DP). Only a small fraction of the number usually seen at the Des Moines Reservoir have been seen thus far. After the fifth annual trip to a number of lakes in north central Iowa on 10 September, the migration seemed early and heavy. (JK). Green-winged Teal were found at Big Marsh, a flock of 150, (PP), a similar number on West Twin Lake, Rockwell City, with 35 Redheads and 80 Ruddy Ducks, and there was another 100 on Big Wall Lake. (JK). "More Green-winged than usual." (DH). Wood Ducks are thought to have increased greatly with 1,600 at Union Slough late in September. On 16 November there were still 900 present. On the same date there were about 15,000 ducks, mostly Mallards. (JW). An increase in Wood Ducks was noticed at Sioux City, (DH), and there were 200 at the Lynxville Dam on 29 September. 5,000 ducks of seven species were there 27 October. (DK).

**Hawks.** This group was widely noticed. "A fine flight on 22 September with 126 Broad-winged, 11 Red-tailed, 2 Red-shouldered, 3 Cooper's and 6 Turkey Vultures seen in two hours." (FK). A flight of 200 hawks, principally Red-tailed, with a few Broad-winged and Marsh and Cooper's seen 26 September. (EG). "Two hundred buteos moved over Union Slough on 21 September." (JW). A migrating Goshawk was watched for 15 minutes on 16 November, (FK), another soared over the Des Moines Reservoir on 2 September, and a third identified at Clarksville on 6 October. (RH). "A good flight of accipiters from 3 October to 6th, the same as last year, with some stragglers on 27 October." (DR). In Pine Hill Cemetery at Davenport 8 Sharp-shinned were banded from 11 September to 16 October. (PP). "More immature Red-tailed than in previous years, and first Rough-legged seen on 9 October." (DR). Five Broad-winged and two Red-shouldered were seen at Ames 21 September. (DP). At Akron the first Swainson's appeared 13 September with a few others later. (EB). Another seen near Parkersburg 9 August. (RH). Bald Eagles seen were, 21 October, (RH), and immature 1 October, (JW), and another immature 10 November. (DH). "Female Marsh Hawks were seen about every day in October with few males." (EB). "At least 9 and perhaps 11 or more were at Big Marsh 20 October." (PP). At Des Moines, 4 were seen 17 and 18 November. The only Ospreys reported were one at Sweet Marsh 17 September, (RH), and another at Des Moines in October. A Peregrine Falcon was seen near Parkersburg 3 August, (RH), and a large falcon, thought to be a Peregrine, was sighted at Spring Lake. (Dick K). Sparrow Hawks "were back to normal after a low year in 1962." (DR), and "a heavy flight was observed 16 to 20 September with 8 or 9 to the mile for several days." (EB). A Pigeon Hawk harassed a flock of Blue Jays for 30 minutes on 19 September, but apparently made no attempt to capture one. (EB). "Red-tailed, Marsh, and Sparrow Hawks seen in normal numbers." (DG). "All hawks, other than Red-tailed, were thought to be scarce." (DK).

**Pheasants, Partridges.** "Not nearly as many Ring-necked Pheasants as were expected from earlier reports." (DH). Gray Partridges had a good nesting year with coveys as large as 8 being flushed. (DR).

**Rails, Shorebirds.** "A good showing of shorebirds, yellow-legs, Pectorals, 200 peep and 15 Soras on 24 August, but few after that date." 2-3,000 Coots at Coralville Reservoir 27 October, 21 Snipe at Swan Lake 29 October. (FK). 1,600 Coots at Little Wall Lake 26 October, (DP), and "hundreds" at Sioux City in mid-September. (DH). Several immature Soras and an adult Vir-

ginia Rail were seen in an alfalfa field while mowing. (EB). There was a good shorebird migration noticed at Ogden until the area dried up. (Jim K). The situation at Des Moines was disappointing despite the large number of mud flats during the season. Some shorebirds remained unusually late at Credit Island; 1 Least Sandpiper, 4 Dunlins, and 2 Sanderlings were seen 10 November. (PP). On 10 September an estimated 2,500 shorebirds, including 1,500 Stilt Sandpipers, were seen at Union Slough. From 3-500 of this species have been seen in other recent years. (JK). About 5,000 birds of 22 species were present at the peak, with Stilt and Pectoral Sandpipers most abundant, and lesser numbers of Least Sandpipers, Lesser Yellow-legs, White-rumped and Semi-palmated Sandpipers. (JW). Sanderlings were observed regularly through September, with as many as 15 present, and one or two Marbled Godwits were seen frequently in August. (JW). An American Woodcock was banded 3 October and another 4 October in Pine Hill Cemetery. (PP). On 10 September West Twin Lake had 5 Northern Phalaropes, (JK), a few days earlier there were 2 to 4 at Ogden, (Jim K), one had been seen at Union Slough, (JW), and one at Lake Keomah near Oskaloosa on 28 September. (JB).

**Gulls, Terns.** A Franklin's Gull was seen 6 October. (RH). There was only one flock at Ogden where they are usually seen regularly. (Jim K). Mr. and Mrs. John Barlow saw 4 Caspian Terns 24 September in Black Hawk Park. (AH). At Lamoni there were 2 on 20 September, (DG), while 14 were present 24 September at Lake Keomah. (JB). A few Caspian and several Forster's Terns were at Union Slough in September, while Ring-billed Gulls, Franklin's Gulls and Black Terns were intermittently common. (JW).

**Doves, Cuckoos, Owls.** At Lehigh on 20 September there were 2 5-day old young Mourning Doves, and on 14 October 2 young unable to fly seen at Goldfield. (DR). "Compared with other years the number of Mourning Doves netted was way up." Last Yellow-billed Cuckoo banded was 21 September, and Black-billed 30 September. (PP). A late Black-billed was flushed from a cornfield near Ames 12 October. (DP).

**Owls, Nighthawks, Whip-poor-wills.** A Snowy Owl was seen near Union Slough 7 November. (JW). There have been 5 Short-eared Owls at the Lamoni airport since 16 November, (DG), and 2 were seen 3 November. (Jim K). The surprising number of 16 Saw-whet Owls was banded from 8 October to 31, with 5 on the 12th. (PP). The last Whip-poor-will banded was on 28 September. (PP). A flock of 100 Common Nighthawks was seen on 2 September, (FK), and 45 went over Des Moines on 10 September. Flocks were seen on 31 August and 1 September near Decorah, and on 13 September at Ames. (DP). The last seen at Davenport was 14 October. (PP).

**Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers.** "Very good migration of hummingbirds." (DR). "More than ever seen before and 17 netted." (GB). Nine banded. (PP). Fifty Yellow-shafted Flickers were seen on 31 August. (FK). "Greatest year for flickers ever seen." (DR). A very large number, considerably more than in any recent year, remained in Des Moines for several weeks. A Red-shafted Flicker was reported by Nick Osness as seen on 21 September. (RH). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were numerous in Des Moines. Eight were banded. (PP). Several were reported at Sioux City, (DH), and these, with Hairy Woodpeckers, appeared at Ogden for the first time in three years. (Jim K).

**Flycatchers, Horned Larks, Swallows.** The flycatcher migration at Davenport was early with peaks on 27 August and 4 Sept. At the same time there have been some unusually late dates; an Eastern Phoebe banded 22 October; the last of 10 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers banded 13 September; Acad-



ian, 25 September; Traill's, 5 October; and Least Flycatcher, 29 September. (PP). Say's Phoebes which had been located at more than 20 locations around Akron were seen until 29 September. (EB). "Many, many flocks of Horned Larks in northwest Iowa 10 to 13 November." (DH). "Large flocks of swallows, some numbering nearly 1,000, mostly Cliff, were seen prior to their departure in mid-September." (DK). "Small flight of Cliff Swallows 14 August and three succeeding days." (DG). "Heavy flight of Barn Swallows on 26 September." (DH).

**Blue Jays, Nuthatches, Creepers.** "Blue Jays above average in early September." (DR). "Flocking as early as 16 September and migrating until 25 October. Still many remaining." (EG). Red-breasted Nuthatches, which were scarce in most areas last year, are mentioned too many times to enumerate. An unusually early arrival was the one at Davenport on 20 August. (PP). Brown Creepers: "Definitely up, good flight 15 to 20 September." (DR); "7 on 19 October", (DP); "Trees full on two occasions." (GB). One seen on 4 October had a band on its right leg. (AH).

**Mimics, Thrushes.** "Catbirds almost entirely lacking." (DR). Ten Robins in Ames on 1 November were the latest seen. (DP). "One of the best migrations." (DR). "Very many seen at Ogden." (Jim K). "Seem to be fewer in numbers." (DH). "Very good flight of Hermit Thrushes." (DR); the latest seen at Davenport was 30 October, (PP); and a late one at Des Moines was 17 November. "Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes, good migration." (DR). "More Swainson's than usual but few Gray-cheeked." (DH). Eastern Bluebirds, "Good migration for third successive year." (DR); numerous reports of flocks in Des Moines, one reliably described as more than a hundred; "One large flock in September." (DH). Veeries arrived in Davenport 28 August with seven banded on 4 September. (PP).

**Gnatcatchers, Kinglets, Waxwings.** An unusual report is that of two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers on 21 September. (DH). "There have been more Ruby-crowned Kinglets than usual but no Golden-crowned." (GB). "Ruby-crowneds have been the most numerous migrant present from 20 September to late October." (DK). One flock of Cedar Waxwings appeared in late September. (Jim K). Another flock was seen early in November by Wm. Youngworth. (DH), and one was seen in Des Moines on 9 November.

**Vireos.** "A dismal migration, almost totally lacking." (DR). Solitary Vireos were in larger numbers, and Red-eyed were extremely abundant, accounting for a large percentage of the birds seen in the first warbler wave late in September in Des Moines. A Philadelphia Vireo was the "first ever banded at Pine Hill Cemetery", (PP), one was Akron on 29 August, and another reported by Wm. Youngworth the next day. (EB). It was also seen at Ogden. (Jim K). Only a few of either Solitary or Red-eyed Vireos were seen at Sioux City, these the last week in September. (DH).

**Warblers.** "A good and steady number of warblers with no marked waves. From 15 to 29 September 12 species of warblers were seen, including one Connecticut viewed at close range. Some kinglets and Red-breasted Nuthatches and a few Purple Finches included. Myrtles came later in October." (FK). Two Parulas were seen at Ames 13 September, (DP), and both adults and immatures were at Des Moines the first 10 days in September. "An early warbler migration including Bay-breasted and Nashville on 17 August, Black-and-white on the 19th, Blackburnian on the 21st, and Chestnut-sided, Wilson's and Mourning on the 22nd." (DK). "Orange-crowned, good migration 2-5 October," (DR), "Lots on 3 October," (EG). Nashville, fairly numerous in Des Moines through September, and many seen at Hamburg on 15

October, with the last observed on 26 October. "Myrtles almost as good as last year, which was considered remarkable." (DR). "Many Myrtles from 9 September to 3 November," (DP), but the number in Des Moines no greater than average. Three Pine Warblers were banded in August and September, (PP), and several of this species made their appearance in Des Moines. A Connecticut was identified at Hamburg. (EG). Canadas on 19 and 20 September were late for that area. (EB). There was a warbler flight at Sioux City from 21 to 24 September with few or none seen at other times. (DH).

**Blackbirds.** Rusty Blackbirds were in numbers 29 October, and on 16 November the biggest numbers of all kinds of blackbirds were moving. (FK). From 2-5,000 Common Grackles roosting at Ames left by 9 November. (DP). An estimated 25,000 Red-winged Blackbirds were at Princeton Marsh 1 November. (PP). A small flock of Brewer's Blackbirds was seen 4 November, (DG). At Ogden there were 15 Brewer's on 14 November, 30 Rusty Blackbirds 11 November and 20 on 12 November. (Jim K). Grackles, Red-winged, etc., at Sioux City were described as being in "tremendous clouds." (DH).

**Finches, Sparrows.** Evening Grosbeak: One was seen at Sioux City 30 October, (DH); one at Pleasantville 11 November, (GB); and three at Des Moines 11 November. Purple Finch: the first banded was 13 September, (PP); three at Des Moines 11 September were very early. Red Crossbill: very early arrival at Davenport with 12 on 30 August, remaining a week; two seen on 4 November, (PP); "A couple" by Youngworth, (DH); one on Ames campus 24 October, (DP). White-winged Crossbills: two at Davenport 3 November, (PP). Towhees: up in numbers, (PP). Savannah Sparrows: lots of young migrating, (EB). Baird's Sparrow: this rare species was identified by Eldon Bryant while mowing alfalfa. It was thought several other birds seen at the same time might have been Baird's. Le Conte's: on 13 and 15 October and three on 20th, (EB); one on 6 October by Margaret Nagel, (RH); a small flock at Des Moines Reservoir 19 October. Henslow's: several found at Des Moines Reservoir by Albert Berkowitz, 19 October. Slate-colored Junco: unusually large numbers reported from Davenport, Pleasantville, and Des Moines. Oregon Junco: seen on 10 October and 3 November. (EB). White-winged Junco: reported by Mrs. Darrell Hanna as having been seen by Mrs. Glenn Berryman. Tree Sparrows: late in arriving on 2 November. (FK). Field Sparrows: still at Davenport 21 November. (PP). Harris' Sparrows: good numbers at Iowa City, (FK); fewer, (GB); not seen until 3 November, (DR); at least usual numbers at Des Moines. White-crowned Sparrows: very scarce with only one seen, (EB); not many reported from Des Moines. White-throated Sparrows: excellent migration 3 to 20 October, mostly immatures with adults few and later, (DR); large numbers, (GB); probably fewer than normal in Des Moines; first appeared at Ames 29 September, increasing until last week in October. (DP). Fox Sparrows: more than usual until 2 November, (FK); only two records, 20 October and 27 October, (EB); more than usual at Des Moines; more than ever noted before, (GB); fewer than normal, (DR). Lincoln's Sparrow; more than usual, (GB); but fewer in Des Moines. Lapland Longspurs: 12 seen 17 November, (DG); a small flock 3 November near Des Moines seen by Elizabeth Peck; a number by Wm. Youngworth in November, (DH); 600 or more at the Davenport Airport on 2 November, (PP).

Contributors: Mrs. Gladys Black, Pleasantville; John Bowles, Oskaloosa; Eldon Bryant, Akron; Paul Doerder, Boone; Mrs. Edwin Getscher, Hamburg; Donald Gillaspey, Lamoni; Annette Haffner, Cedar Falls; Mrs. Darrell Hanna, Sioux City; Russell Hays, Waterloo; Myrle Jones, Bellevue; F. W. Kent,

Iowa City; Jim Keenan, Ogden; Joe Kennedy, Des Moines; Dick Knight, Ames; Darwin Koenig, Castalia; Peter C. Petersen, Jr., Davenport; Herbert Prince, Keokuk; Dean Roosa, Goldfield; John E. Wilbrecht, Union Slough. WOODWARD H. BROWN, 4815 Ingersoll, Des Moines, Iowa 50312.

## GENERAL NOTES

**A Concentration of Various Bird Nests.**—One day this summer, as I walked in from the field to get a repair for the machine I was using, I walked through a four year old Chinese Elm windbreak which will protect one of our cattle feed yards. Looking up as I walked through I noticed that bird nests seemed to be much closer together than is usually the case.

When I had a few free moments, I took a census just to see what I might find. In this tract of closely planted trees, which measures 114 yards by 12 yards, I found 37 nests which were active or appeared to have been recently in use. No last years nests were counted. The Common Grackles were most numerous with 15 nests and were followed by the Mourning Doves with 11, Brown Thrashers with 5, Robins with 3, Catbirds with 1, and two which I couldn't identify positively. Since my census a family of Yellow-billed Cuckoos have moved in also.

My conclusion is that this unusual concentration of nests is the result of an excellent combination of conditions. The thick growth of young trees gives unusual protection. The cattle feed yard furnishes plenty of grain for the taking and has waterers which birds can use safely. The cornfield behind the grove is a good place to scratch for worms and other insects and take dust baths. A marshy little stream nearby furnishes bathing, drinking water, and a source of insects and small snails.—ELDON BRYANT, Route 1, Akron.

**Courtship Flight of the Male Marsh Hawk.**—On May 29, 1963, I witnessed the spectacular courtship flight of the male Marsh Hawk. I was working in a far corner of our farm when a series of strange bird cries caused me to look up and see a male Marsh Hawk who seemed to be having trouble with his control system.

He would dive from a height of perhaps 90 feet until he leveled out at about 10 feet from the ground and glided several yards at that height when he rose again to the original height. As he reached the apex of his ascent he would lose speed, stall, and dive again. This was done in complete silence except just as he reached the stalling point he would give a short scream which seemed to me to have a tone of agony. These maneuvers were continued until the bird was lost in the distance. Some minutes later he re-crossed the field at a different angle still "showing off" if one might use this description. He then disappeared for good.

Experienced ornithologists have described this flight as like a series of capital U's in succession as UUUUUUUU. This is an excellent description. None of the books in my limited library mention the screaming cry at end of the ascent. I do see quite a few Marsh Hawks but this was the only time I have ever seen the courtship flight.—ELDON BRYANT, Route 1, Akron.

**Unusual Mating Behavior of the Mourning Dove.**—This fall I trapped a female Sparrow Hawk and temporarily retained it for observation and to obtain further data. On October 6, I had this small falcon on a perch near a wooded area with its tail covered with white cardboard to protect it from being damaged. About noon I saw a bird fly down and alight very near the hawk. As I moved closer, I saw it was a Mourning Dove. The dove made



soft cooing sounds and assumed a position similar to mating poses. Upon flying into a tree it continued to make these sounds. This behavior was repeated several times during that afternoon.

A possible explanation is that the dove was responding to the tail, which appeared all-white because of the cardboard. Since the dove's tail is fringed with white, this may have served to trigger mating behavior in this species. As I released the hawk soon after this, I had no opportunity to observe if other doves would respond in a similar manner.—DEAN M. ROOSA, Goldfield.

**Notes on the Nesting of Mourning Doves.**—During the past three nesting seasons, I have noted the following nesting irregularities in the Mourning Dove:

- a) May, 1961. Nest on ground five miles west of Goldfield, near the Boone river. The nest, composed of dead blue grass, contained two eggs which later hatched.
- b) May, 1961. Nest eight inches from ground in crotch of haw (Cretagus sp.) tree. The nest, composed of dead twigs, contained two young.
- c) June, 1962. Nest located in red pine tree, in the Goldfield cemetery. It was built on top of a year-old Common Grackle nest.
- d) July, 1962. Nest on ground, on north bank of the "Big Kettlehole" near Lakeside Laboratories on Lake Okoboji. It was built of dead blue grass and was later destroyed.
- e) June, 1963. Nest on ground six feet from railroad tracks a block from Goldfield. Built on a clump of blue grass. it contained two eggs.
- f) June, 1963. Nest on ground three miles northwest of Goldfield in a ditch four feet from passing cars. It was composed of dead blue grass and later destroyed.
- g) June, 1963. Four dove nests were found this spring that contained three eggs each.

DEAN M. ROOSA, Goldfield.

**Hovering of Red-tailed Hawk.**—While driving near Goldfield, I flushed a Red-tailed Hawk from a post. As it flew across a field, it stopped to hover for approximately five seconds with its legs extended downward. This was the first time I had observed a Red-tailed Hawk hovering.—DEAN M. ROOSA, Goldfield.

**The Dickcissel in September.**—Often times when one sees a crowd of House Sparrows splashing and bathing in the birdbath the first impulse is to shrug off the noisy activity and forget it, but in September, especially the first three weeks, take another look and this time with your binoculars. One doesn't usually associate the city birdbath with Dickcissels in September, but often they are there. During the last forty years this writer has observed Dickcissels in the bird bath on nine different occasions. The dates run from September 1 to as late as September 17.

The best field mark at a quick glance is the rich russet triangle of feathers which form the wing-coverts. The black of the throat is by this time often almost gone and the bright yellow of summer has become the dull yellow of fall. After you spot the wing patch it is then easy to figure out the other rather veiled details and put down your bird as a September Dickcissel. Many birds are timid in the presence of so many House Sparrows and will even pass up a bath if the over-crowding is too much. Not so with the Dickcissel, he will stay right in the water and ignore the sparrows. I saw one even challenge a male Cardinal by ruffling his feathers and opening his bill, daring the Cardinal to chase him from his ablutions.—WILLIAM YOUNG-WORTH, 3119 East Second Street, Sioux City.

**The Prairie Falcon in Late Summer.**—Other observers, especially those in the Rocky Mountains, have noted a definite west to east movement of the Prairie Falcon in the late summer and fall. October and November records for this fine falcon are not rare in the Sioux City area, but August sightings are. While the first record, August 31, at Larrabee, Cherokee County, Iowa, has been published before in *Iowa Bird Life*, it is used to back up a companion record of August 23, 1963, at Sioux City, Woodbury County, Iowa. This Prairie Falcon was seen within the limits of Sioux City and at such close range that the pale sandy coloration, long closed tail and long pointed wings were all seen to good advantage. In checking T. S. Roberts, *Birds of Minnesota*, 1932, I find an August 23, 1931, record by Alfred Peterson of Brandt, South Dakota, made near Pipestone, Minnesota. Another record given in the above source is one by Messrs. Surber, Avery, and Eheim on August 30, 1922, at Boon Lake, Renville County, Minnesota.—WILLIAM YOUNG WORTH, 3119 East Second Street, Sioux City.

## BOOK REVIEWS

**The Birds**—Roger Tory Peterson and the Editors of Life—192p., 85 color photos plus many black and white photos and line drawings.—Life Nature Library, Time, Inc., New York, New York—1963—\$3.95.

This volume provides as good a general introduction to its subject as this reviewer has yet seen. The quality of the color reproductions is excellent. The writing style is easy to follow and students will find it a wonderful source of background material on birds.

The author begins by tracing the evolution of birds and presenting the twenty-seven orders to be found today. The singular structural modifications of birds are described. Feeding adaptations and habits showing the great diversity found among various species of birds are mentioned. Habitat importance is illustrated and the number of species occurring and breeding in the states of the United States and countries of Europe is mapped. The basic theories of migration and means of studying the movements of birds are discussed. Methods of communication between birds and its importance is brought out. The reproductive cycle is covered, including some excellent photographs of embryonic development. The final chapter delves into birds importance to man economically and species depleted due to their lack of adaptability.

Anyone searching for a book on birds for a school or public library would do well to seriously consider this work. The authoritativeness can be ascertained from the long list of contributors. The cost is well within reason and this book I would recommend very highly to any bird student. ed.

**Alabama Birds**—Thomas A. Imhof—591p., 103 maps, 61 photos, 43 plates (32 in color)—University of Alabama Press, University, Alabama—1962—\$7.50.

This volume is certainly one of the most useful state bird books to appear in recent years. It is well illustrated by several capable artists. A few species are poorly illustrated but these are definitely the exception. The binding, printing and typographical quality are very good.

The species accounts begin with local names and a brief description. The description could have been omitted due to the large quantity of literature now available providing this information. A simple statement of status in the state and habitat preference follows. Nesting habits are discussed briefly even for species which do not breed within Alabama. The common food supply is mentioned. A general distribution of the whole range of the species

is outlined. The closing section concerning occurrence in Alabama contains the meat of the text. Early and late dates of migration are discussed for each of the six physiographic regions. Specific breeding dates are mentioned when available. Distribution is illustrated by maps when sufficient data was recorded. Banding recoveries are also mapped in many cases, a feature new to state bird books.

The introductory section provides a good brief background on bird study. Bird houses are discussed and a table outlines specific sizes. The history of ornithology in Alabama is outlined. The physiography of the state is outlined and pictured, an important section as these regions form the basis for the listing of the bird records in the species accounts. Laws protecting the bird life are listed as well as species considered game birds. An excellent section deals with migration both in general terms and dealing with Alabama specifically. Banding and its methods are also discussed briefly.

The book contains no separate hypothetical list, species with no specimen on record being set off in brackets. This plan could be considered poor, but this reviewer knows from personal experience how thoroughly the author has checked observations concerning first sight records and agrees with the treatment used.

This book must be considered among the better state bird books to appear in recent years. In terms of value for dollars expended it could easily be the best. Bird watchers in the upper Mississippi Valley would find it a useful aid in terms of data on birds which migrate through their area. No library of state books could be complete without this volume and it far overshadows and updates previous books on Alabama Birds. ed.

**Birds of Wisconsin**—Owen J. Gromme—220p., almost one map per species, 105 color plates—The University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, Wisconsin—1963—\$22.50 (until Feb. 1, 1964—\$18.00).

The long awaited work on the bird life of one of our neighboring states has finally been published — in part. This volume contains the color plates, range maps and migration charts. Another volume will be published containing the detailed text of species accounts. This plan is new in state bird book circles, but has definite merit. Those desiring only the lavish volume of color plates don't have to be burdened with the more technical species accounts. Serious students can do without this volume, save money, and still have the material of value to them by getting the companion volume when it appears. Many people will want to get both volumes.

The book is in the current check-list order with a few exceptions. The page opposite each plate has outline sketches of the birds on the plate for identification. It also supplies the common and scientific names, a brief statement of status, a migration chart line indicating periods of occurrence and a map showing the range in Wisconsin. Colors indicate the season of occurrence, using yellow for summer, blue for winter and green for all year. Of course this method is rather general but conveys much information at a glance.

The author-artist has spent over twenty years on this project. Despite this several errors caught this reviewer's eye. The Western Grebe is very poorly done and looks quite out of shape to anyone familiar with the bird in life. The size proportion of the birds on plate five, especially the bitterns, appears erroneous. The same feeling holds for the rails on plate 26. The Semipalmated Sandpiper is shown to have yellow legs and a bill wider at the base than the Western Sandpiper. Proportion seems off in the terns,



plate 39. The Orange-crowned Warbler appears much different from any I have seen.

The last section of plates is a group of paintings showing birds in their habitat. These are very fine and add considerably to the book. Most of the subjects are game birds and birds of prey and the artist does very well with these subjects.

This book should be in any library of state bird books. Several of the plates in this reviewer's copy are slightly out of register, a shortcoming hard to excuse at the price charged for the volume. Other states have produced fine quality bird books at a lower cost. Gromme does a far better job on some species than others, but many artists share this weakness. This reviewer recommends anyone considering the purchase of this volume examine a copy if at all possible before the purchase. ed.

## CHECKLIST REPRINTS

Reprints of Dr. Grant's "Coded Checklist of Iowa Birds" which appeared in the September issue are now available from either the Editor or the Librarian at the addresses on the next page. Cost is \$ .25 plus five cents postage.

(Act of October 23, 1962; Section 4369, Title 39, U. S. Code)

1. Date of filing: September 30, 1963
2. Title of publication: Iowa Bird Life
3. Frequency of issue: Quarterly
4. Location of known office of publication: 2736 E. High Street, Davenport, Iowa
5. Location of headquarters or general business offices of the publishers: Same
6. Names and addresses of publisher and executive editor: Peter Petersen Jr., 2736 E. High Street, Davenport, Iowa
7. Owner: Iowa Ornithologist's Union, RR #2, Waterloo, Iowa
8. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities: None
9. (Not applicable)

10.	Avg. No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Mos.	Single Issue Nearest To Filing Date
a. Total No. copies printed (net press run) .....	600	600
b. Paid circulation		
1. To term subscribers by mail, carrier or by other means .....	415	405
2. Sales through agents, news dealers or otherwise .....	.....	.....
c. Free distribution (including samples) by mail, carrier delivery or by other means .....	.....	.....
d. Total No. of copies distributed (sum of lines b-1, b-2 and c .....	415	405

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.  
Peter Petersen Jr., Editor

## CONTENTS

FALL GET-TOGETHER .....	82-84
PINE WARBLER AT SIOUX CITY .....	84-85
FIELD REPORTS .....	86-91
GENERAL NOTES .....	91-93
BOOK REVIEWS .....	93-95
CHECKLIST REPRINTS .....	95

---

OFFICERS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

President—Dean Roosa, Lehigh, Iowa

Vice-President—Myra Willis, 1720 6th Ave., S.E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Sec'y.-Treas.—Dr. Myrle M. Burk, Route 2, Waterloo, Iowa

Librarian—Dr. J. Harold Ennis, Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa

Editor—Peter C. Petersen Jr., 2736 E. High Street, Davenport, Iowa

Executive Council:

Fred W. Kent, Iowa City, Iowa

Robert L. Nickolson, Sioux City, Iowa

Charles Ayres, Ottumwa, Iowa

Forrest G. Millikin, Sigourney, Iowa

---

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union was organized at Ames, Iowa, February 28, 1923, for the study and protection of native birds and to promote fraternal relations among Iowa bird students.

The central design of the Union's official seal is the Eastern Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

Publications of the Union: Mimeographed letters, 1923-1928; "The Bulletin," 1929-1930; "Iowa Bird Life," beginning 1931.

---

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$3.00 a year. Single copies 75¢ each except where supply is limited to five or fewer copies, \$1.00. Subscriptions to the magazine is included in all paid memberships, of which there are four classes, as follows: Contributing Member, \$10.00 a year; Supporting Member, \$5.00 a year; Regular Member, \$3.00 a year; Junior Member (under 16 years of age), \$1.00 a year.

---

EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICE  
2736 E. HIGH STREET  
DAVENPORT, IOWA